

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In the first protruding portion 19 before welding, a welding allowance 19a (welding allowance with respect to the cover 12) in the first welding portion 21 and a welding allowance 19b (welding allowance with respect to the filter element) in the second welding portion 22 are formed. The height of the first welding allowance 19a is larger than that of the second welding allowance 19b. This is because the pocket portion 28 between the first protruding portion 19 and the second protruding portion 20 is made as small as possible. Depending on the size of the pocket portion 28, the height of the first welding allowance portion 21 and the height of the second welding allowance portion 22 may be the same.--